

Portland Harbor Community Advisory Group
FINAL: Minutes for January Meeting
1/12/05

Minutes by Steve Gunther, edited by Dorothy Shoemaker

Attendees:

Present at meeting:

Neighborhood Associations:

Robin Plance	(b) (6)	St. Johns; Chair of CAG, Administrative committee coordinator
Peter Laughingwolf	(b) (6)	Cathedral Park

Environment:

Joe Keating	(b) (6)	Oregon Wildlife Federation, Education and Outreach committee coordinator
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Recreation:

Bill Egan	no email, (b) (6)	Oregon Bass and Panfish Club
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At-Large:

Jim Robison	(b) (6)	Citizen
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Jackie Calder	(b) (6)	Citizen
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Bill McCauley	no email, (b) (6)	Citizen
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Health:

Jane Harris	jane@oregon-health.org	Oregon Center for Environmental Health (OCEH), Evaluation committee coordinator
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Business:

Steve Gunther	(b) (6)	Progressive Products and Services
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Excused absences:

Neighborhood Associations:

Larry Talbert	(b) (6)	Hi Noon
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Recreation:

Raquel Coyote	(b) (6)	Citizen
Bill Barrett	(b) (6)	Waterfront Org. of Oregon (WOO)

Environment:

Rhett Lawrence	rhett@ospirg.org	OSPIRG
Travis Williams	travis@willamette-riverkeeper.org	Willamette Riverkeeper
Dorothy Shoemaker	Dorothy.shoemaker@oregon.sierraclub.org	Sierra Club, Board Secretary

Others present:

Jim Anderson	Anderson.jim@deq.state.or.us	
Barbara Smith	Barbara@harrisandsmith.com	Lower Willamette Group
Patti Howard	503-238-0667	CRITFC
Julie Sullivan	juliesullivan@news.oregonian.com	Oregonian newspaper

Amanda Guay	503-872-5357	ODHS
Eric Blischke		EPA
Sue Safford	saffos@portptld.com	Port of Portland
Judy Smith	smith.judy@epa.gov	EPA
(b) (6)	(b) (6)	
(b) (6)		
(b) (6)	(b) (6)	Citizen

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Meeting commenced at 6:05 PM.
 CAG members and other attendees introduced themselves.
 Next meeting set for 2/9/05.

MOTION: Call was made for review of minutes from 12/10/04 Meeting. Rhett Lawrence moved to approve minutes. Jim Robison seconded motion. Motion carried.

Gasco letter was approved via email and letter was sent out.

Admin committee report:

Secretary position still open. Peter Laughingwolf reported that Dorothy Shoemaker is still interested in maintaining the website and the listserv. Joe Keating volunteered to work with Dorothy to ensure listserv is functioning effectively.

Robin Plance declared that he will issue meeting agendas earlier in order to obtain input from CAG prior to final agendas for future CAG meetings.

Robin reported that Corps of Engineers would update the CAG on the DMMP (Dredging Materials Management Plan). Steve Gunther asked for update on the history, status and future prospects for the Atofina Chemical (ARKEMA Group) site. Larry Patterson and DEQ's Matt McClincy were referenced by LWG as contacts with information to follow up with.

Update on Early Actions, including contractor information, can be provided by the March Meeting.

Peter asked for an update on McCormick Baxter.

Modeling discussion will be moved up to April.

Jim Robison asked for Education and Outreach committee to put some emphasis on increasing CAG membership and participation.

Jane Haley-Harris reported that a settlement was reached with Kinder Morgan whereby NPDES permit will be posted for employees to see. Employees will be trained and \$75K will be spent on loader improvements.

Jim Robison asked about what appears to be loose soda ash at Kinder Morgan's property on the West side of the River.

Questions were raised by Bill regarding the GASCO letter, specifically regarding disposal of contaminants (tar) from the site.

Judy Smith (?) mentioned that the tar body is a continuing subject for discussion and evaluation.

Jim Anderson described a viscous fluid that is believed to be below the tar body.

Steve suggested that some assessment of the delays in the GASCO site cleanup ought to be performed in order to learn from this and avoid future delays on other sites.

(b) (6) asked if a sample of coal tar from GASCO has been evaluated and if this information could be available to the CAG. Barbara Smith said she could ask Bill Wyatt to present info on the GASCO.

Steve asked if Bill Wyatt could be persuaded to make the same presentation to the CAG that he made to the NWECC (Northwest Environmental Conference) last fall.

Joe K. announced that the PRP letter will be mailed out to all PRP's.

Peter Laughingwolf detailed ideas related to Stewardship. Eyes on the River. Both EPA and the Corps of Engineers are committed to enforcing the dredging permit process, but they don't have the resources to monitor effectively. Since they don't know when dredging is happening, Peter suggested some type of system be put in place whereby fishermen, boaters and others on the river can report on observed questionable activities on the river.

Jane Haley-Harris said there's probably another way. There are permits in place, so we could review to see if the law has been violated.

Steve suggested that Willamette Riverkeeper already has a network in place and that increased support from the CAG for WRK's program should be provided.

Joe questioned whether the CAG can be effective at increasing such a monitoring presence.

Peter L. agreed to lead a meeting to discuss the subject.

Peter L. asked about re-defining positions on the CAG in order to increase CAG participation.

EPA's Eric Blischke presented information on contaminated groundwater in the ISA.

Contaminated groundwater continues to discharge into the River. Eric described regulatory efforts to study and address this.

A pilot study was established in November. An airplane took thermal images to identify groundwater plumes around the river in November --November being the optimal time due to temperature differences between warmer groundwater and colder river water. This provided what Eric called a temperature signature. They looked at the ATOFINA site and the ARCO facility.

The salt plume coming from out of ATOFINA is 5X more saline than seawater. The rate of movement was measured. Before Xmas "peepers" were used where a de-ionized water vessel is submerged in the mud to gauge movement. Information is available in a Groundwater Pathway Evaluation Technical Memorandum.

In July, another temp differential will allow for additional measurement of groundwater signatures.

Bill Egan asked for distinction between industrial impacted groundwater and other stormwater.

Petroleum products are the main things we're looking at. Metals are also contaminants including cyanide. Copper can become soluble and represents a health hazard.

Joe asked about the quality control process for this groundwater evaluation.

Judy Smith, from EPA, referenced reports that are to be made available to the CAG. They have already been presented to the Technical Advisory Group (Regina/WRK)

Regina asked about discharges. Are you looking at Lab techniques or field techniques, with regard to where groundwater is discharging?

Jim Anderson, from DEQ weighed in on the evaluation process: "The overall goal is to identify high priority sites."

Bill Egan mentioned that changes are bound to occur in groundwater transport.

Steve asked about the cost of this groundwater study.

Barbara said she could find out how much of the \$19 million LWG has spent so far can be attributed to the Groundwater study.

(b) (6) asked, "Are there existing wells?"

Jim Anderson said UIC's (Underground Injection Control Sources) would be identified in the course of this study.

Steve asked about UIC's and Jim said that there are probably no more than a hundred UIC's in the ISA.

Eric mentioned that all UIC's in the Superfund area are to be either de-commissioned or registered.

Regarding Corps of Engineers, Don Borda is the contact at the Corps for Schnitzer.

The DMMP won't be completed for 1.5 yrs.

Per Robin, Chad Linna can make a presentation on Dredging Technology. Joe K. asked Robin to ID Don Borda's supervisor.

Bill asked why EPA took no action against Schnitzer for allegedly violating their dredging permit. Eric Blischke said the EPA is evaluating the permit.

DEQ's Jim Anderson says transcripts are being requested from witnesses in order to file a complaint with the Corps.

EPA's Eric Blischke declared that coordination between the Army Corps and EPA has been abysmal.

Robin reported that at the Willamette River Authority meeting, the Schnitzer dredging issue was raised.

Discussion was held about inviting a Schnitzer representative to attend and present at future CAG meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 8:05 PM.